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A Storage Device for an Elongated Flexible Article or Articles

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(71) Applicant(s)
Allan Grant

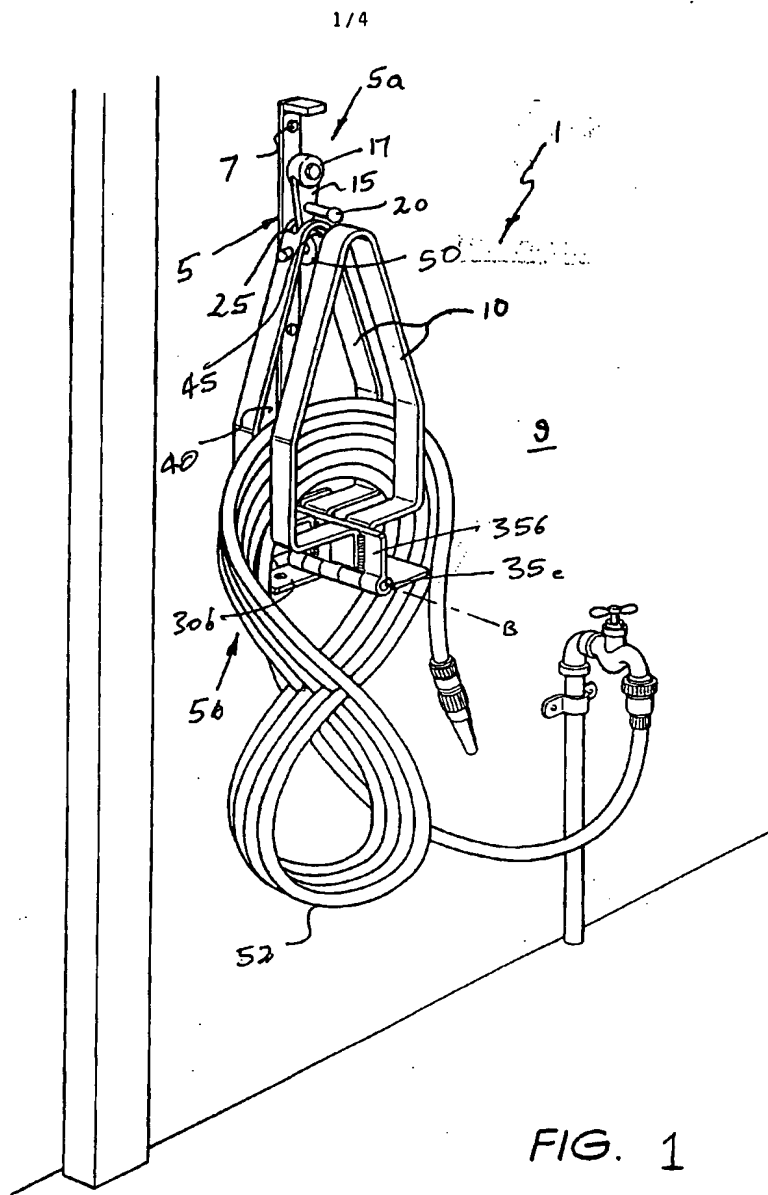
(72) Inventor(s)
Grant, Allan Albert

(74) Agent/Attorney
Spruson & Ferguson, Level 35 St Martins Tower 31 Market Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000

A Storage Device For An Elongated Flexible Article Or Articles

Abstract

A storage device (1) for an elongated flexible article or articles (52), the device (1) including: a body (5) to be supported; a support means (10) for the article or articles (52) pivotally attached to the body (5) so as to be movable relative thereto between a first position at which the support means (10) is adjacent the body (2), and a second position at which the support means (10) extends away from the body (5); means (15) to aid in retaining the support means (10) in the first position; and wherein the support means (10) includes a pair of elongated adjacent support members (10) separated by a recess (43) extending from a recess opening (45). The support members (10) being positioned so that the article or articles (52) may extend through the recess (40) so as to be retained therein when the support means (10) is in the first position.



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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

FOR A STANDARD PATENT

ORIGINAL

Name and Address
of Applicant :

Allan Albert Grant
159a Englands Rd
Coffs Harbour New South Wales 2450
Australia

Actual Inventor(s):

Allan Albert Grant

Address for Service:

Spruson & Ferguson
St Martins Tower, Level 35
31 Market Street
Sydney NSW 2000
(CCN 3710000177)

Invention Title:

A Storage Device for an Elongated Flexible Article
or Articles

ASSOCIATED PROVISIONAL APPLICATION DETAILS

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The following statement is a full description of this invention, including the best method of performing it known to me/us:-

A Storage Device For An Elongated Flexible Article Or Articles

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a storage device for an elongated flexible article or articles and, in particular, to a garden hose reel assembly.

5

Background of the Invention

To keep a line of any type in an ordered state when not in use it is important to protect that line from damage, keep the surrounding area neat and tidy and remove the possibility of a person being entangled with the line and having an accident.

10

With lines such as a garden hose for example, as the surrounding areas can be wet due to water from the hose, it is also important that the hose be stored properly. A number of garden hose reels are available, most of which are individual units located on the ground containing a frame, a reel drum and a handle to rotate the reel drum. The disadvantage of these systems is that they are not fixed to a surface and thus move around, they are cumbersome and they get in the way.

15

Object of the Invention

It is an object of the present invention to overcome or ameliorate some of the disadvantages of the prior art, or at least to provide a useful alternative.

Summary of the Invention

There is disclosed herein a storage device for an elongated flexible article or articles, said device including:

20

a body to be supported;

a support means for the article or articles pivotally attached to the body so as to be movable relative thereto between a first position at which the support means is adjacent the body, and a second position at which the support means extends away from the body;

25

means to aid in retaining the support means in said first position; and wherein

said support means includes a pair of elongated adjacent support members separated by a recess extending from a recess opening, said support members being positioned so that said article or articles may extend through said recess so as to be retained therein when said support means is in said first position.

Preferably, said support members are generally parallel and co-extensive and extend substantially parallel to said body when in said first position, and extend generally normal to said body when in said second position.

Preferably, one of said support members is provided with a roller adjacent said opening to aid in retaining the article or articles extending through said recess.

Preferably, the means to aid in retaining said support means in said first position includes a catch.

Preferably, a spring extends between said body and support means to urge said body towards said first position.

Preferably, each support member is formed from a metal strip.

Brief Description of the Drawings

A preferred form of the present invention will now be described by way of example only with reference to the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a hose reel assembly according to an embodiment of the invention in the storage position;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the hose reel assembly of Figure 1 in the use position;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of an alternate embodiment of the hose reel assembly of the invention;

Figure 4 is a partial perspective view of an alternate lock assembly in the in-use position; and

Figure 5 is a partial perspective view of the lock of Figure 4 in the storage position.

5 Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Referring to Figures 1 to 5, there is shown a hose reel assembly 1 having an elongate base strip or body 5 pivotally supporting a pair of hose support members 10. The base strip or body 5 is attached by screws or bolts 7 through holes (not shown) in the body 5 to a surface such as a wall 9, for example. The body 5 has first and second ends
 10 5a, 5b. Located at the first end 5a is a catch member 15 which in Figures 1, 2 and 3 is pivotally movably relative to the body 5, while in Figures 4 and 5 is moved longitudinally of the body 5 through housing 17 by handle 20 into a corresponding hole 25 located at the end of one of the hose support members 10. In Figures 1 to 3, the catch member 15 is rotated with housing 17 by handle 20 into hole 25. When the catch member 15 is
 15 engaged in the hole 25, the assembly 1 will be locked in the "storage" position (Figures 1 and 5). That is, the hose support members 10 will be substantially parallel to the body 5 and wall 9.

At the second end 5b there is a first hinge member 30 having a first and second flange 30a, 30b either side of a central hinge pin 30c which defines a first pivot axis AA.
 20 The first flange 30a is secured to the second end 5b of the body 5 and the second flange 30b is pivotable about the first axis AA. A second hinge member 35 includes a central hinge pin 35c defining a second pivot axis BB, and a flange 35b attached to the hose support members 10. The assembly 1 is moved from the first "storage" position (Figures 1 and 5) towards the second "in use" position (Figures 2, 3 and 4) by pivoting about the
 25 first axis AA (central hinge pin 30c).

The pair of hose support members 10 attached to the flange 35b of the second hinge member 35 are formed of a continuous strip material and extend away from the flange 35b to form a generally triangular shape. Each hose support member 10 is located adjacent each other to define a recess 40 and a recess opening 45 therebetween. One of

the hose support members 10 includes a rotatable roller 50 adjacent the recess opening 45. The roller 50 inhibits the accidental removal of articles, such as a garden hose 52, placed within the recess 40. The roller 50 is rotatable about an axis generally parallel to the axis AA.

5 As shown in Figure 3, a cross member 11 is held across one of the support members 10 and a spring 51 or similar device is attached from the cross member 11 to the body 5 to urge the assembly into the storage position (Figures 1 and 5).

10 In use, the movable catch member 15 is released and the hose support members 10 (which are presently in the first "storage" position, Figs. 1 and 5) are pivoted by a user about the first axis AA and then if required about the second axis BB into the second "in use" position (Figs. 2, 3 and 4). The hose support members 10 are now ready for a garden hose 52 or the like to be inserted past the recess opening 45 and roller 50, into the recess 40. The hose 52 in a preferred embodiment is inserted in a figure eight arrangement about the hose support members 10 as shown.

15 It should be appreciated that the reel assembly 1 can be configured to support any elongated flexible article or articles such as a hose or flexible conduit.

 Although the invention has been described with reference to specific examples, it will be appreciated that those skilled in the art that the invention may be embodied in many other forms.

The claims defining the invention are as follows:-

1. A storage device for an elongated flexible article or articles, said device including:

a body to be supported;

5 a support means for the article or articles pivotally attached to the body so as to be movable relative thereto between a first position at which the support means is adjacent the body, and a second position at which the support means extends away from the body;

means to aid in retaining the support means in said first position; and wherein

10 said support means includes a pair of elongated adjacent support members separated by a recess extending from a recess opening, said support members being positioned so that said article or articles may extend through said recess so as to be retained therein when said support means is in said first position.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein said support members are generally
15 parallel and co-extensive and extend substantially parallel to said body when in said first position, and extend generally normal to said body when in said second position.

3. The device of claim 1 or 2, wherein one of said support members is provided with a roller adjacent said opening to aid in retaining the article or articles extending through said recess.

20 4. The device of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the means to aid in retaining said support means in said first position includes a catch.

5. The device of any one of the preceding claims, wherein a spring extends between said body and support means to urge said body towards said first position.

25 6. The device of any one of the preceding claims, wherein each support member is formed from a metal strip.

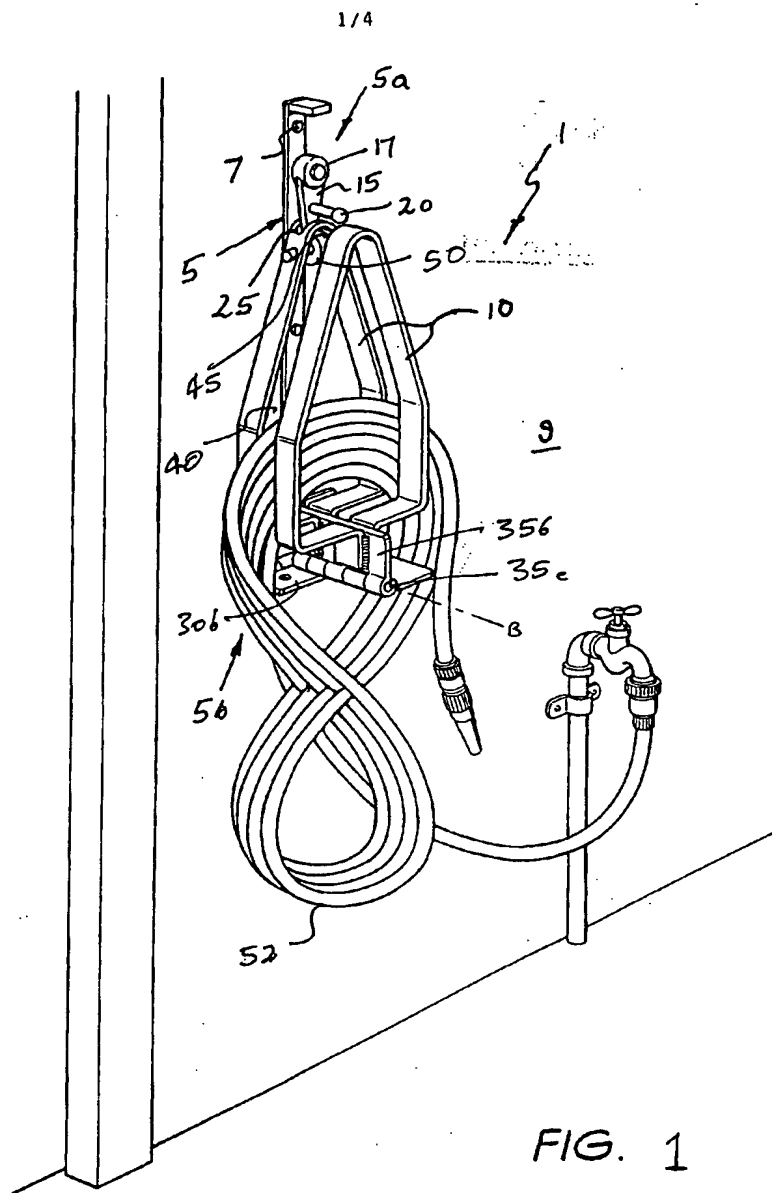
7. A storage device, substantially as herein described with reference to any one of the embodiments of the invention shown in the accompanying drawings.

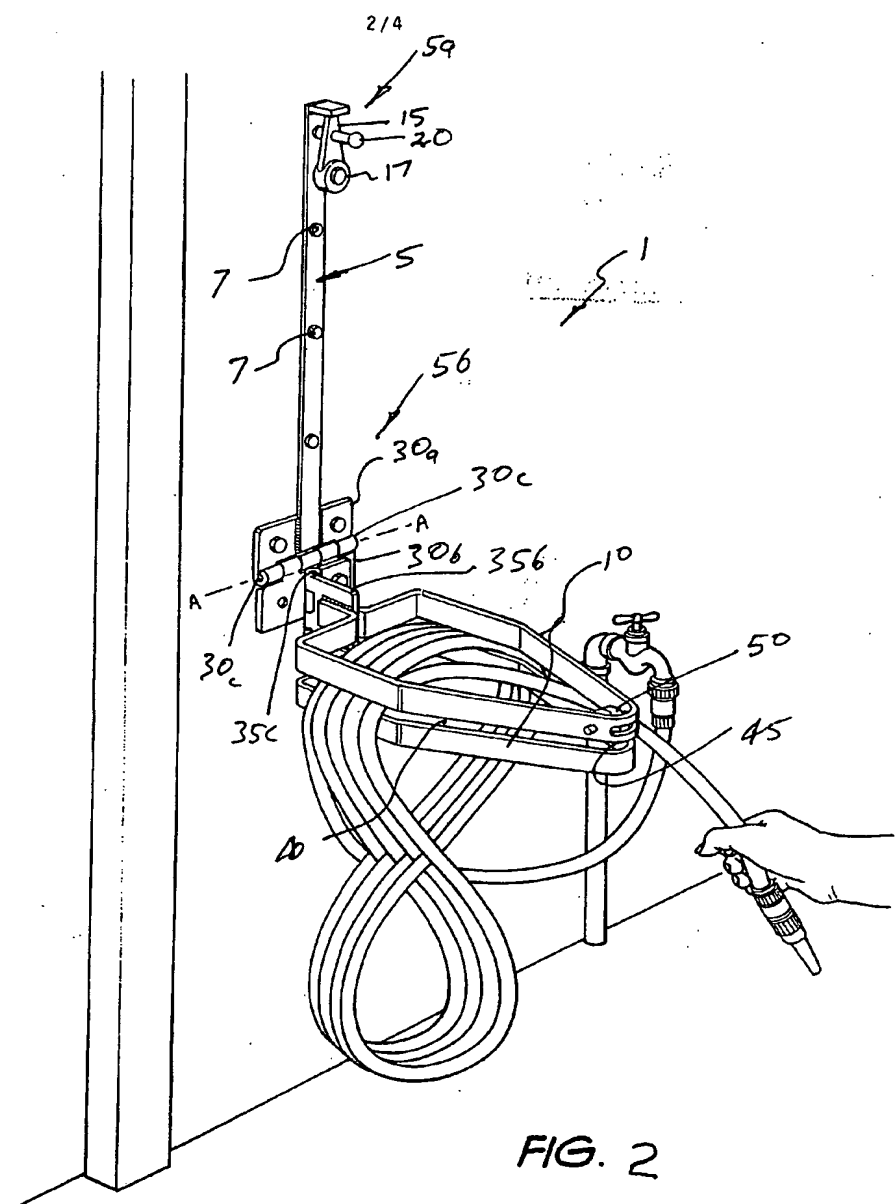
Dated 4 November, 2002

Alan Albert Grant

Patent Attorneys for the Applicant

SPRUSON & FERGUSON





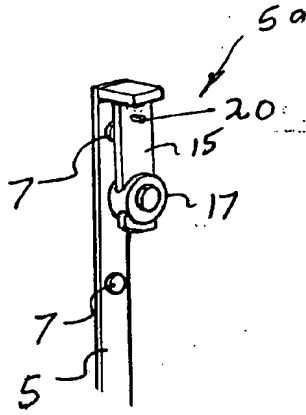


FIG. 4

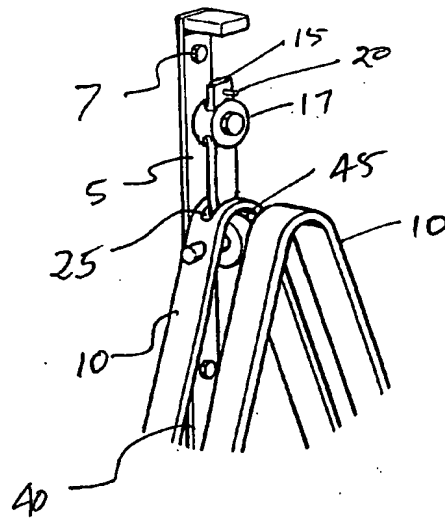


FIG. 5

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